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ELSIE LINCOLN BENEDICT TELLS HOW SHE SCRUBBED STEPS AT D. U. TO HELP PAY FOR HER EDUCATION

DENVER, Aug. 21.—She pays an income tax equal to the most popular movie star. She has won fame of international scope. She has written scientific books that pile up editions, which must prove to Elinor Glyn that her way of writing isn't the only way. And she has returned home for a visit.

The first feature on the home-coming program of Elsie Lincoln Benedict was to gather her friends and take them for a ride to Denver university and there, in the oldest building on the campus, point out to them the long staircase that she scrubbed day after day to pay for her tuition as a student.

"And believe me they were scrubbed," she said.

Rather a daring thing for Elsie Benedict to admit these snobby days, when so many change even the accent of their speech to hide a valiant past. But to this woman, successful beyond the highest ambitions of her scrubbing days, those steps are a symbol. They stand for the everlasting value of persistence and of the set goal.

At luncheon with a party of friends, Mrs. Benedict explained the value of a fixed idea if it has to do with a thing to be strived for.

"When I was 6 years old, perhaps younger," she said, "I began to make speeches. I recited 'The Polish Boy,' 'The Charlot Race,' from 'Ben Hur,' 'Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight'—all the old hokum stuff I could get someone to read to me, so I might commit the words to memory.

"Somewhere back in my mind in those far-away days was a determination to become a person who should deal with other persons in a large, talky way. I believe I won a medal or a cup or something or other as a reciter.

"Between then and the fulfillment of my ambition were many discouragements.

"I worked at many tasks while accumulating the education the schols have to give, and always regarded each of them as honorable and worth doing with might and main.

"Attending the university was no dressy experience for me—it meant

the hardest kind of hard work but necessary to my plan—necessary to the foundations of the structure I was to build later, altho at the time I didn't know it."

And at that point Mrs. Benedict suggested that parents would do well to allow children to follow the line they choose for themselves, otherwise the "lost choice" will rise to trouble and thwart their best efforts in the thing they have been told to do.

"Often there were months, even years, when I had no chance to exercise my voice against anyone's ears," she said.

"I had a glorious experience as a reporter on a Denver paper, extending my knowledge of human nature and quickening my sense of observation, but there I was writing, and not talking.

"Then came the campaign for woman suffrage, and the big chance for me to get into direct contact with people, first from a curbstone, next from the end of a delivery wagon, later from platforms. I also learned organization and how to effect it."

Looking back over the way Mrs. Benedict has traveled, it is plain to see that every step was a logical sequence of the preceding one; that every step—even those she scrubbed so well at Denver university—was taking her toward the thing that was on its way to meet her.

And she insists what she has done others may do as well. They must put aside fear dispense with false social standards, line up the true social values and, above all else, "be yourself."

"I suppose there were scores of students at that university who snubbed me in my role of step scrubber," she said. "I only remember those who were kind and friendly and encouraging—and complimented my clean steps.

"If I have any message at all to the young folks of my beloved home state, it is for them to make up their minds what they want to do and start to do it, regardless of discouragements."

About eight years will cover the career of Elsie Benedict, on her own. In those eight years she has spoken a message of cheer and helpfulness to hundreds of thousands of men and women and youths. She has taught thousands to find themselves and their way, and those she has met face to face can be counted on the fingers of half a dozen hands.

"I have no personal conceit, no one is interested in me personally," she remarked. "I am an embodied voice with a message. Insofar as I make my message and directions effective, I justify my existence as a teacher, for the most important thing to a person today is to find out what he's good for and how to make good."

There is gayety, sweetness and enthusiasm about this young woman.

...about this young woman
who admits, "I don't deserve the luck
I've had. It's too good to be true, and
I can't quite understand it"

Perhaps if those steps at Denver
university could speak to Mrs. Bene-
dict they'd deliver an enlightening
message to the effect that anyone
who worked as she worked on them
is bound to succeed.